

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 12 (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method for propagating information in a network comprising:
automatically assigning a number to an interface;
automatically transmitting said number on said interface;
automatically transmitting said number on at least one additional interface; and
wherein said interface and said one additional interface are interfaces among a
plurality of interfaces in a circuit switch.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the act of automatically
transmitting said number on all enabled interfaces in said circuit switch.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said interface and said one
additional interface conform to a protocol selected from a group consisting of Synchronous
Optical Network (SONET) and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
storing said number in a first table in a network element including said circuit switch;
and
wherein at least another network element in the network stores said number in a
second table.

17. (Original) A network comprising:
a first circuit switch having a first interface, the first interface having assigned thereto a first identifier;
a second circuit switch having a second interface, the second interface having assigned thereto a second identifier;
a plurality of memory locations in said first circuit switch containing a first table, the first table including each of said first identifier and said second identifier;
a plurality of memory locations in said second circuit switch containing a second table, the second table including each of said first identifier and said second identifier; and
a link coupling said first interface to said second interface.

18. (Original) The network of claim 17 wherein the link includes a fiber optic cable.

19. (Original) The network of claim 17 wherein said first circuit switch and said second circuit switch use a protocol selected from a group consisting of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

20. (Original) The network of claim 17 wherein the first table and the second table both contain an entry indicating the function of said link.

21. (Original) The network of claim 17 wherein the first table and the second table both contain an entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over said link.

Claims 22 – 26 (Canceled)

27. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable medium containing a computer readable program code for
propagating information in a network, said computer readable program code in
said article of manufacture comprising:
computer readable program code for automatically assigning a number to an interface;
computer readable program code for automatically transmitting said number on said
interface;
computer readable program code for automatically transmitting said number on at
least one additional interface; and
wherein said interface and said one additional interface are interfaces among a
plurality of interfaces in a circuit switch.